

REMARKS

Claims 6, 7, 10, 11, 14, 15-25 are currently pending. Claims 1-5, 8, 9, 12, 13, and 26-30 have been canceled. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application in response to the non-final Office Action.

Obviousness-type double patenting rejection

Claims 1-3, and 26-27 have been rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1, 2, and 5-7 of U.S. Patent Application 10/729,596. Claims 1-3, and 26-27 have been canceled in the present amendment, rendering this rejection moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication by the Examiner that claims 16-25 are allowed and that claims 6, 7, 10, 11, 14, and 15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and intervening claims. Applicants have followed the spirit of this suggestion to amend claims 6, 10, and 14. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 6, 7, 10, 11, 14, and 15 are allowable.

Claims 1-5 and 26-28 have been rejected as being allegedly anticipated by Yuan et al. (U.S. Patent 6,249,901 B1). Claims 8-9, 12-13, and 29-30 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Yuan et al.

Claims 1-5, 8-9, 12-13, 26-30 have been canceled in the present amendment, rendering these rejections moot.

CONCLUSION


Based on the reasons as set forth above, Applicants respectfully request allowance of all pending claims.

In the event that there are any questions concerning this paper, or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone Applicants' undersigned representative so that prosecution of the application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

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